(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Difference in estimates of imports, as well as exports, between DGCI&S and those of RBI has been there due to primarily source of data and coverage. To reconcile these, RBI had set up a Technical Group on Reconciling Balance of Payments and DGCI&S data on Merchandise trade. The Group has already submitted an Interim Report to the RBI and RBI have accepted the interim recommendations.

Steady Increase in Country's Exports

5868. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports from the country are steadily increasing;

(b) if so, the rate of increase of exports during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that our exporters are not realising full value from their exports whereas importers of those items are selling them at a high price;

(d) whether it is a fact that the country's exports suffer a lot due to the fact that they are unbranded and due to absence of chain of marketing outlets in the importing countries; and

(e) if so, waht steps are under consideration of Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rates of increase of exports in US Dollar terms during the last three years have been:

	% *Increase*
1992-93	3.8
1993-94	20.0
1994-95 (P)	18.3

P=Provisional.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Government is making all efforts to promote new markets and products through Market Development Assistance and exhorts the trades and industry to build Indian brand names.

Per Capita Consumption of Foodgrains

5869. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita consumption of foodgrains dipped from 510 gram in 1991 to 465 gram in 1993, whereas the stocks of foodgrains of Government swolled from 20.8 mt. to 26.35 mt. during the said period;

(b) whether it is also a fact that between December, 1991 and February 1994, price of cheaper grains at ration shops went up more than those for the costlier ones and the off-take of wheat from PDS during 1993-94 declines to half as compared to 1991-92; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The per capita availability of foodgrains (cereals & pulses) based on net production after taking into account 12.5% for feed, seed and westage from the gross production was about 500 gram in 1991 against about 487 grams in 1993.

Comsumption of foodgrains depends on various factors such as varying pattern of consumption, availability of different foods including fish, mutton, eggs, fruits